

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1941



Brightwell House,
East Street,
Farnham.

September, 1942.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Farnham.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen;

I submit herewith my Annual Report for the year
1941 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of Farnham.

In compliance with the directions of the Ministry
in Circular 2604, on grounds of National security no figures
have been given which would enable any substantial series of
local populations to be constructed, and no reference has
been made to war-time industrial developments or to extension
of water supply and sewerage, etc.

In the interests of paper economy, the report has
also been abbreviated as much as possible and has been
stencilled instead of printed.

The health of the district has been surprisingly
good and although a considerable amount of time has been
devoted to war-time housing problems and inspection of food
the department has appeared to function more normally than
since the outbreak of war. For this, I once again take
the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the
co-operation of all members of the staff of the Public Health
Department.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

F. BEDO HOBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

There has been no change in the area of the urban
district of Farnham and the number of inhabited houses is
approximately the same as in 1940, although the resident
population has slightly increased.

The number of inhabited houses is the same as in
1940 but there has inevitably been some overcrowding due to
the influx of refugees.

VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate for 1941 was 15.2 per 1,000 and the death rate 12.04, the former being definitely higher than usual and the latter being the same as last year. The infant mortality rate of 23.4 per 1,000 live births shows a welcome decrease.

In accordance with instructions given in Circular 2604, no quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which would give information of local populations are given in this report.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There are no substantial changes in the laboratory facilities, ambulance and blood transfusion services, nor in the arrangements for nursing in the home.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The following is a list of the clinics and treatment centres in the district :-

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham.	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m.
The Institute, Rowledge.	1st and 3rd Mondays, 2 - 4 p.m.
The Village Hall, Wrecclesham.	2nd and 4th Mondays, 2 - 4 p.m.
The Scouts' Hall, Gravel Hill, Lower Bourne.	1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.
The Institute, Hale	Fridays, 2 - 4 p.m.
Badshot Lea	2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.

School Clinics

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham.	1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
Badshot Lea	2nd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

Tuberculosis Dispensary

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham.	1st Tuesday, 5 - 7 p.m., 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
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Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham.	1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
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Ante-Natal Clinic

Brightwell House, East Street, Farnham.	Every Wednesday, 2 p.m.
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Dental Clinic

Brightwell House, East
Street, Farnham.

1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Mondays,
Every Wednesday. 2nd and 4th
Fridays at 9.45 a.m.

THE CURATIVE POST

The Curative Post has continued to do excellent work throughout the year, and the number of treatments given has again increased.

HOSPITALS

FARNHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL

The work done at this hospital continues to increase every year, as shown by the much larger number of admissions and the greater number of operations performed, X-ray films taken and physical treatments given.

TRIFFERS COTTAGE HOSPITAL

During the year, 416 patients were admitted and 281 operations - 125 being for removal of tonsils and adenoids - were performed.

Owing to lack of staff the childrens ward has had to be closed.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Owing to war conditions, this hospital now serves a larger area than formerly and at times has been quite busy during the year.

Arrangements have been made for dealing with possible cases of typhus.

WOODLANDS HOSTEL FOR EVACUEE CHILDREN

This hostel has continued to be of great use in dealing with "problem" billeting cases and is a definite asset under war-time conditions. Guildford Rural District have been very co-operative in accepting a few cases of minor infectious disease which could not be dealt with at the Isolation Hospital or in their billets.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The two sources of water supply for the district have been perfectly satisfactory throughout the year. Samples have been taken regularly at monthly intervals and have been found on analysis to be perfectly satisfactory.

Samples of well water suitable for emergency use have also been examined bacteriologically and all suitable wells have been clearly marked.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1941

In accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1926, the following classified table is submitted of (a) the number and nature of inspections made during the year; (b) the number of notices served during the year; (c) the result of the services of such notices.

(a) Number and nature of inspections made during the year :-

Dwellingshouses

Number inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	402
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Number of inspections made, including re-inspections and visits to works in progress	551
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Other Premises (Inspections and Re-inspections)

1. Slaughterhouses	0
2. Meat and Other Food Shops	1,544
3. Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	212
4. Bakehouses	...	...	...	73
5. Factories	...	...	...	140
6. Shops	...	...	...	226
7. Offices	...	...	...	0
8. Camping Sites	...	...	...	9
9. Mushroom Farms	...	...	...	6
10. Visits re Cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	46
11. Visits re Miscellaneous Complaints	...	...	...	252
12. Visits re Complaints under Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	...	...	...	29
13. Visits re Disinfestation of Premises	...	...	...	11

(b) Notices Served :-

Number of preliminary notices served under the Public Health, Housing and Other Acts	98
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(c) Result of Notices :-

1. Preliminary Notices -

(a) Complied with in 1941	76
(b) Work not commenced	9
			85
			85

2. Statutory Notices -

(a) Complied with in 1941	...	...	12
(b) Work not commenced	...	...	1
			13
			13

Table showing nature of defects or nuisances discovered and remedied, as required by the Ministry of Health :-

1. Defective cottages repaired	...	...	18
2. New drains provided to dwellings	...	...	1

3.	Defective drains and cesspools made sound or cleared	40
4.	Defective rooms cleansed and renovated	3
5.	Defective roofs repaired	16
6.	Defective gutters or downpipes repaired or replaced	2
7.	New sanitary accommodation provided	12
8.	Smoke nuisances abated	0
9.	Lavatories converted to water carriage system from conservancy system	0
10.	Earth closets cleansed or repaired	1
11.	Back wards paved and repaired	0
12.	Conditions of mushroom farms improved	0
13.	Rivers and streams nuisances abated	0
14.	Portable dustbins provided	5
15.	Accumulations of refuse or manure removed	0
16.	Pigstyes, fowlhouses, etc., cleansed	1
17.	Premises connected to main water supply	6
18.	Premises cleansed under Factories Act	0
19.	Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops cleansed, repaired or reconstructed	2
20.	Dampness in cottages remedied	5
21.	Damp and defective floors repaired or relaid	5
22.	Rooms disinfected following infectious disease	35
23.	Cesspools abolished	6
24.	Houses generally repaired	2
25.	Rooms disinfested	10
26.	Premises cleansed and repaired under Shops Acts	4

Number of legal actions taken -

Under Public Health Acts	0
Under Infectious Disease (Notifications) Act, 1875	0
Public Health (Heat) Regulations, 1924	0

SHOPS

During the year 226 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1934. All preliminary notices served following these inspections were complied with.

SWIMMING BATHS

Only one public and one private swimming bath were in use during the year.

Samples taken from these baths during 1941 were satisfactory in every way.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Three houses were discovered to be infested with bed bugs during 1941. None of these was seriously infested and following the treatment of the rooms with "Zaldecide" no further action was necessary.

SCHOOLS

Sanitary arrangements of all schools in the district were inspected during the year and were found to be generally satisfactory.

HOUSING

The majority of the 402 houses inspected during the year were routine inspections, comparatively few complaints having been received.

The general standard of the properties in the district continues to be good and, where necessary, further improvements have been brought about through the informal and Statutory Notices served during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

MILK SUPPLY

Frequent and regular inspections have been made of all cowsheds, dairies and milk shops in the district during the year.

During 1941 there were 24 cowkeepers, 29 dairymen, 29 retail purveyors and 8 wholesale traders on the register.

Samples for bacteriological examination were taken from all sources of supply during the year. Copies of the Analyst's reports were forwarded to the producers concerned and special visits were made to farms and dairies in the district where unsatisfactory samples were produced. Following instructions for more care to be observed during milking and in connection with the utensils, further samples showed a great improvement.

A new High Temperature Short-Time Pasteurisation Plant was installed at one dairy during the year and has proved entirely satisfactory.

The following summary shows the results of samples taken during the year :-

Designation	Taken	Satisfactory	Not in all respects	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	12	4	7	1
Accredited	16	7	5	4
Ordinary	31	15	6	10
Totals	59	26	18	15

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

As in 1940, the licences of the eight slaughterhouses in the district were not renewed during 1941, the meat supply to the district still being distributed from the Denot at Aldershot where the Central Slaughterhouse is situated.

Regular inspections of the Food shops in the district have been continued throughout the year, special attention being paid to refrigerators, iceboxes and the conveyances used for the transport of foodstuffs.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

Commodity	cwts. qrs. lbs.		
Pork		2	22
Beef (Home killed)	1	3	1
Beef (Imported)	1	2	18
	4	0	13
Ham and Beef Roll			21
Tongue			9
Corned Beef	1	1	26
Peas	5	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beans		1	0
Cooking Fat			24
Bacon			24 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fish	1	1	19
Cheese			3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Liver		1	14
Apples		1	12
	9	3	17 $\frac{3}{4}$
	14	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

95 Dozen Eggs

133 Tins Milk

54 Jars Paste

10 Tins Pineapples

135 Tins Oranges.

ADULTERATION

The Surrey County Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

The following is a summary of the results of samples taken during the year :-

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Deteriorated			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total		
Milk	42	2	44	4	1	5	0	0
Confectionery and Jam	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Spirits	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sugar Substitute	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Powdered Onion	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Mustard	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	44	6	50	4	2	6	0	0

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The health of the population throughout the year has been very good and the only epidemic was a mild one of measles in the spring which caused no deaths.

There were only nine cases of cerebro spinal fever during the year, in contrast to twenty-five in 1940.

The incidence of scabies increased slightly, and advantage was taken of the arrangements for treating cases at the County Hospital first aid post.

The attention of the public has been frequently drawn to the value of prophylactic inoculation against diphtheria through the medium of the local press, cinemas and by shop displays.

Diphtheria immunisation proceeded satisfactorily and during the year 502 children under 5 and 1,332 between 5 and 15 years completed their course of immunisation. The percentage of children protected is probably about 40% under 5 years and 50% between 5 and 15 years.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the district during 1941 :-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
5 - 15	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
15 - 25	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
25 - 35	4	2	0	0	2	2	0	0
35 - 45	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
45 - 55	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
55 - 65	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	0
65 and over	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	12	5	5	5	10	2	0	2

TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE

This Committee has had very little work to do during the year, but continues to meet and function in anticipation of more work in the future.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1941

The following is a list of notifiable diseases classified in age groups reported during 1941 :-

Infectedious Disease.	At all ages	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & over	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	25	0	1	2	1	3	8	4	1	4	0	1	0	15	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	0	0	18	0
Pneumonia	21	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	6	5	3	2	1	16
Para-Typhoid	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Diphtheria	12	1	0	1	2	2	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	12	2
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Measles	230	5	9	19	27	13	100	23	8	10	3	1	2	3	0
Whooping Cough	165	15	16	13	16	18	74	6	3	1	2	0	1	4	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	9	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	0	1	9	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

